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REPORT

ON

COLONIZATION AND EMIGRATION.

MADE TO

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

BY THE

AGENT OF EMIGRATION.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
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REPORT

ON

COLONIZATION AND EMIGRATION.

EMIGRATION OFFICE,
Department of the Interior, Washington, December 4, 1862.

SIR: Permit me to present a report of the progress and present condition of the colonization measures, yet in their initiatory stages, with an enumeration of the pending propositions made by sundry States and colonial authorities, all of which are now under advisement.

At the last session of Congress the following provisions were enacted:

1. *Section* 11 *of act approved April* 16, 1862: "That the sum of one hundred thousand dollars, out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, is hereby appropriated, to be expended under the direction of the President of the United States, to aid in the colonization and settlement of such free persons of African descent now residing in said District, including those to be liberated by this act, as may desire to emigrate to the republic of Hayti or Liberia, or such other country beyond the limits of the United States as the President may determine: *Provided*, The expenditure for this purpose shall not exceed over one hundred dollars for each emigrant."

2. Furthermore, in "*An act making supplemental appropriations for sundry civil expenses*," *&c.*, approved July 12, 1862, I have the following provision: "To enable the President to carry out the act of Congress for the emancipation of the slaves in the District of Columbia, and to colonize those to be made free by the probable passage of a confiscation bill, five hundred thousand dollars, to be repaid to the treasury out of confiscated property, to be used at the discretion of the President, in securing the right of colonization of said persons made free, and in payment of the necessary expenses of their removal."

3. And again, in section 12 of "*An act to suppress insurrection*," *&c.*, approved July 17, 1862, it is provided: "That the President of the United States is hereby authorized to make provision for the transportation, colonization, and settlement, in some tropical country beyond the limits of the United States, of such persons of the African race, made free by the provisions of this act, as may be willing to emigrate, having first obtained the consent of the government of said country to their protection and settlement within the same, with all the rights and privileges of freemen."

It will be seen distinctly that those provisions link into each other, and constitute the foundation of our colonization measures, as proposed and recommended in the annual message of the Chief Magistrate, and his subsequent announcements.

Furthermore, a bill has been introduced during the last session to create a permanent office or department, to which such matters may be referred. The President having commissioned the writer with all the powers of the proposed commissioner or agent in such a department, he opened a widely extended correspondence on the subject of voluntary emigration, whilst the President, in the goodness of his heart, for the first time in the history of the country, re-

ceived and addressed a number of colored men as representatives of their race in the following terms, which it is all important to record, as constituting one of the most important chapters in the history of the country.

On the 14th of July, after the necessary preliminary arrangements were made, I introduced a committee of five persons of color to the President, who received them kindly and cordially, and then informed them that a sum of money had been appropriated by Congress, and placed at his disposition, for the purpose of aiding the colonization, in some country, of the people, or a portion of them, of African descent, thereby making it his duty, as it had for a long time been his inclination, to favor that cause. And why, he asked, should the people of your race be colonized, and where? Why should they leave this country? This is, perhaps, the first question for proper consideration. You and we are different races. We have between us a broader difference than exists between almost any other two races. Whether it is right or wrong I need not discuss, but this physical difference is a great disadvantage to us both, as I think your race suffer very greatly, many of them by living among us, while ours suffer from your presence. In a word, we suffer on each side. If this is admitted, it affords a reason at least why we should be separated. You here are freemen, I suppose.

Yes, sir, answered one.

The President. Perhaps you have long been free, or all your lives. Your race are suffering, in my judgment, the greatest wrong inflicted on any people. But even when you cease to be slaves, you are yet far removed from being placed on an equality with the white race. You are cut off from many of the advantages which the other race enjoy. The aspiration of men is to enjoy equality with the best, when free; but on this broad continent not a single man of your race is made the equal of a single man of ours. Go where you are treated the best, and the ban is still upon you.

I do not propose to discuss this, but to present it as a fact with which we have to deal. I cannot alter it if I would. It is a fact about which we all think and feel alike, I and you. We look to our condition, owing to the existence of the two races on this continent. I need not recount to you the effects upon white men, growing out of the institution of slavery. I believe in its general evil effects on the white race. See our present condition—the country engaged in war; our white men cutting one another's throats, none knowing how far it will extend—and then consider what we know to be the truth. But for your race among us there could not be war, although many men engaged on either side do not care for you one way or the other. Nevertheless, I repeat, without the institution of slavery, and the colored race as a basis, the war could not have an existence.

It is better for us both, therefore, to be separated. I know that there are free men among you who, even if they could better their condition, are not as much inclined to go out of the country as those who, being slaves, could obtain their freedom on this condition. I suppose one of the principal difficulties in the way of colonization is that the free colored man cannot see that his comfort would be advanced by it. You may believe you can live in Washington or elsewhere in the United States the remainder of your life, perhaps more so than you can in any foreign country, and hence you may come to the conclusion that you have nothing to do with the idea of going to a foreign country. This is (I speak in no unkind sense) an extremely selfish view of the case.

But you ought to do something to help those who are not so fortunate as yourselves. There is an unwillingness on the part of our people, harsh as it may be, for you free colored people to remain with us. Now, if you could give a start to white people, you would open a wide door for many to be made free. If we deal with those who are not free at the beginning, and whose intellects are clouded by slavery, we have very poor materials to start with. If intelli-

gent colored men, such as are before me, would move in this matter, much might be accomplished. It is exceedingly important that we have men at the beginning capable of thinking as white men, and not those who have been systematically oppressed.

There is much to encourage you. For the sake of your race you should sacrifice something of your present comfort for the purpose of being as grand in that respect as the white people. It is a cheering thought throughout life that something can be done to ameliorate the condition of those who have been subject to the hard usage of the world. It is difficult to make a man miserable while he feels he is worthy of himself, and claims kindred to the great God who made him. In the American revolutionary war sacrifices were made by men engaged in it; but they were cheered by the future. General Washington himself endured greater physical hardships than if he had remained a British subject. Yet he was a happy man, because he was engaged in benefiting his race—something for the children of his neighbors, having none of his own.

The colony of Liberia has been in existence a long time. In a certain sense it is a success. The old President of Liberia, Roberts, has just been with me—the first time I ever saw him. He says they have within the bounds of that colony between 300,000 and 400,000 people, or more than in some of our old States, such as Rhode Island or Delaware, or in some of our newer States, and less than in some of our larger ones. They are not all American colonists or their descendants. Something less than 12,000 have been sent thither from this country. Many of the original settlers have died, yet, like people elsewhere, their offspring outnumbers those deceased.

The question is, if the colored people are persuaded to go anywhere, why not there? One reason for an unwillingness to do so is, that some of you would rather remain within reach of the country of your nativity. I do not know how much attachment you may have toward our race. It does not strike me that you have the greatest reason to love them. But still you are attached to them at all events.

The place I am thinking about having for a colony is in Central America. It is nearer to us than Liberia—not much more than one-fourth as far as Liberia, and within seven days run by steamers. Unlike Liberia, it is on a great line of travel—it is a highway. The country is a very excellent one for any people, and with great natural resources and advantages, and especially because of the similarity of climate with your native land; thus being suited to your physical condition.

The particular place I have in view is to be a great highway from the Atlantic or Caribbean sea to the Pacific ocean, and this particular place has all the advantages for a colony. On both sides there are harbors among the first in the world. Again, there is evidence of very rich coal mines. A certain amount of coal is valuable in any country, and there may be more than enough for the wants of the country. Why I attach so much importance to coal is, it will afford an opportunity to the inhabitants for immediate employment till they get ready to settle permanently in their homes.

If you take colonists where there is no good landing, there is a bad show; and so where there is nothing to cultivate and of which to make a farm. But if something is started, so that you can get your daily bread as soon as you reach there, it is a great advantage. Coal land is the best thing I know of with which to commence an enterprise.

To return, you have been talked to upon this subject and told that a speculation is intended by gentlemen who have an interest in the country, including the coal mines. We have been mistaken all our lives if we do not know whites as well as blacks look to their own interest. Unless among those deficient of intellect everybody you trade with makes something. You meet with these things here as elsewhere.

If such persons have what will be an advantage to them, the question is whether it cannot be made of advantage to you. You are intelligent and know that success does not as much depend on external help as on self-reliance. Much, therefore, depends upon yourselves. As to the coal mines, I think I see the means available for your self-reliance.

I shall, if I get a sufficient number of you engaged, have provisions made that you shall not be wronged. If you will engage in the enterprise I will spend some of the money intrusted to me. I am not sure you will succeed. The government may lose the money, but we cannot succeed unless we try; but we think, with care, we can succeed.

The political affairs in Central America are not in quite as satisfactory condition as I wish. There are contending factions in that quarter; but, it is true, all the factions are agreed alike on the subject of colonization and want it, and are more generous than we are here. To your colored race they have no objection. Besides, I would endeavor to have you made equals, and have the best assurance that you should be the equals of the best.

The practical thing I want to ascertain is whether I can get a number of able-bodied men, with their wives and children, who are willing to go when I present evidence of encouragement and protection. Could I get a hundred tolerably intelligent men, with their wives and children, to "cut their own fodder," so to speak? Can I have fifty? If I could find twenty-five able-bodied men, with a mixture of women and children, good things in the family relation, I think I could make a successful commencement.

I want you to let me know whether this can be done or not. This is the practical part of my wish to see you. These are subjects of very great importance, worthy of a month's study, of a speech delivered in an hour. I ask you, then, to consider seriously, not pertaining to yourselves merely, nor for your race and ours for the present time, but as one of the things, if successfully managed, for the good of mankind—not confined to the present generation, but as—

> "From age to age descends the lay
> To millions yet to be,
> Till far its echoes roll away
> Into eternity."

The above is merely given as the substance of the President's remarks.

The chairman of the delegation briefly replied that "they would hold a consultation and in a short time give an answer." The President said: "Take your full time—no hurry at all."

The delegation then withdrew.

To this address the return mails brought hundreds of letters from colored men in all parts of the country, closing in with the proposition to inaugurate a calm and peaceful separation of the races.

And the distant national authorities, learning clearly the sacrifice this republic was willing to make for the sake of harmony in its social and civil circles, have thrown open their tropical possessions to receive our people of color who may desire to remove to new and more favored fields of enterprise, where the chances to rise to position, power, and enlarged usefulness are more numerous than in this distracted country.

The following are the most important propositions which have been made by foreign powers and other parties:

DANISH PROPOSITION.

First in order of time, we will note that of Denmark, which has already been laid before Congress in a communication of the Secretary of State, dated June 6, 1862, which we copy as a paper worth reproducing in this connexion, for the aid of our friends who are casting around them for well-digested labor laws for the use of colonies and plantations.

DANISH LEGATION,
Washington, April 23, 1862.

SIR: The Danish island of St. Croix, in the West Indies, which is a sugar-growing country, has, for several years past, been checked in its progress towards increased prosperity and the full development of its agricultural resources by the want of manual labor—the present rural population being insufficient for those purposes; and it has thus become an object of prominent importance for that island to call forth and encourage the immigration of a laboring population from other countries. Among the plans and propositions for such immigration, which have consequently been devised by the authorities of St. Croix, is one, according to which it is contemplated to offer to negroes, who, in consequence of the recent political events in this country, may have become emancipated, or who may, at all events, have acquired the right and faculty to dispose of themselves, an opportunity of emigrating from this country to St. Croix. This plan has met with the approbation of his Majesty's government, and the undersigned has been instructed to favor its realization, and, if the government of the United States should be willing, to negotiate and enter into a special convention, whereby the contemplated emigration would be placed under the auspices and the guarantee of the two governments. The governor of the Danish West India possessions has also appointed a special agent, who has arrived in this country, for the purpose of making all necessary arrangements for the transport of such persons, of the description above alluded to, as may be found desirous of emigrating from this country to the island of St. Croix. The terms which that agent is authorized to offer to such emigrants are: free transport to St. Croix for all those who engage to labor on a sugar plantation for a term of three years—the emigrants to be, during that term as well as after its expiration, treated in every respect, and, namely, to receive the same compensation for their labor, as the native free rural population.

I enclose a memorandum describing the condition of that population, such as it has been regulated and determined by laws, the wisdom and humanity of which are universally recognized, and shall only add the remark, that any encouragement in the shape of outfit, or premium, or other pecuniary assistance, which the government of the United States may determine to offer to emigrants going to St. Croix, will accrue to their immediate and direct advantage, and go to improve their future condition over and above what the laws of St. Croix, as above mentioned, secure to the immigrant as well as to the native rural population.

Referring to what I have had the honor of stating above, I therefore beg respectfully to inform you that I shall be prepared, if and when the government of the United States shall inform me of its willingness, to negotiate and to enter into a special convention for the emigration of free negroes belonging to the categories above alluded to, as well as their colonization in St. Croix, and also that the above-mentioned special agent from St. Croix will be prepared, whether it be under such a convention or without it, to visit the localities in which persons may be found, with a view of setting fairly before them the terms which he is authorized to offer to emigrants to St Croix, and to arrange and to carry out such emigration, provided the government of the United States will permit him to do so, and that he may expect in his operations to be allowed such facilities as the case may admit of, and as the government of the United States may be at liberty to grant. Feeling satisfied, as I do, that the moral and material existence, which the emigrant would be sure to find in St. Croix, is all that his best friends can desire for him, I beg to express the hope that, whatever may be the present or immediate result of the communication I have hereby the honor of submitting, the government of the United State will eventually give to this project of emigration as favorable a consideration and as much of countenance and en-

couragement as to other similar plans and propositions which may be presented hereafter from other sides.

I avail myself of this occasion to renew to you, sir, the assurance of my very high consideration.

W. RAASLOFF.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State of the United States, Washington, D. C.

Memorandum describing the condition of the free rural (negro) population in the Danish island of St. Croix, West Indies.

The Danish government emancipated the slaves in St. Croix in the year 1848, paying to their owners a reasonable compensation. Fearing, however, that the sudden transition from slavery to entire and unrestricted freedom might prove injurious to the morality of the people, especially if they were allowed to fall into habits of idleness and vice, whereby also the prosperity of the whole community would be seriously endangered, the government issued, shortly after, on the 26th of July, 1849, a "Provisional act to regulate the relations between the proprietors of landed estates and the rural population of free laborers," of which a copy is hereto annexed. The general features of this act, which still remains in force, but a modification of which is now contemplated in the sense of gradually abolishing the fixed price for labor and of allowing a free competition among the laborers, are the following: the price of labor is fixed by law; and when a laborer engages to work on an estate, it must be for a term of one year, in order that he may not, by declining to work when the crop is ready, cause the ruin of the estate; but he is at liberty, at the expiration of that term, to engage work elsewhere, or to leave the agricultural districts and to remove to one of the towns, provided he can show any honest means of livelihood, in which case there is no restriction on the price of labor, and he becomes in every respect as free as any white man. Many negroes have already availed themselves of this latter alternative, and have become owners of real estate. The laborer is also at liberty, at the expiration of his contract, to leave the island entirely. No punishment is allowed on the estate; and any complaint from either the proprietor or the laborer is referred to and decided by the magistrate, who is appointed by the crown. The whole aim and tendency of the above-mentioned stipulations in the "Provisional act" has been, on the part of the Danish government, to secure the welfare of the people, to prevent able-bodied laborers from becoming vagrants, and gradually to prepare the emancipated slaves for a rational enjoyment of entire and unrestricted freedom. The price of labor in money is, for an adult or first-class laborer, 15 cents for each of the first five days of the week, and 20 cents for Saturday. This remuneration, in money, may appear small in this country, but it is the usual price paid in the West Indies, and is, besides, enhanced by several valuable advantages. Generally, all the members of a family, small children only excepted, will have occasion to earn wages as first, second, or third-class laborers; and they are, moreover, furnished with the necessary food for a week (six quarts of corn meal and two pounds of salt fish) at a fixed price of 25 cents, while it costs the proprietor from 35 to 40 cents. Each family is furnished with a good house, rent free, and a piece of ground for raising their own vegetables; they are generally well provided with fruit and sugar, as well as bread, and other supplies are frequently given to them by the estate. The hours of labor are nine to nine and a half hours per day, and very moderate labor at that. Ten cents per month are deducted from the wages of the laborers, for which they are provided with medical attendance, which is excellent, and also with medicines.

The children are by law obliged to attend school five days in the week till

their tenth year is completed, and afterwards on Saturdays only until they have filled their thirteenth year. The schools are well conducted, and kept at the expense of the government. Nobody is obliged to go to church; but custom, public opinion, and the religious training of the rural population—which, together with the schooling of the children, for many years past, and when slavery prevailed, was an object of special solicitude with the Danish government—cause the churches to be largely attended; and to see those well-dressed people, many of them in carts drawn by ponies belonging to themselves, go to church on a Sunday, impresses the beholder with a conviction that they are a contented and happy people, and that the Danish laws have proved themselves to be both wise and humane. It is, in fact, owing to the wisdom of those laws that the emancipation of the slaves in St. Croix has proved more successful there than that in any other country in securing the happiness and progress in civilization of the negro without ruining the owners of the land.

The climate of St. Croix is universally known as extremely agreeable and salubrious. The English language is generally, or it may be said almost exclusively, used all over the island.

W. RAASLOFF.

Provisional act to regulate the relations between the proprietors of landed estates and the rural population of free laborers.

I, PETER HANSEN, knight commander of the order of Dannebrog, the king's commissioner for, and officiating governor general of, the Danish West India islands,

MAKE KNOWN: That whereas the ordinance dated 29th July, 1848, by which yearly contracts for labor on landed estates were introduced, has not been duly acted upon; whereas the interest of the proprietors of estates as well as of the laborers requires that their mutual obligations should be defined; and whereas, on inquiry into the practice of the island, and into the private contracts and agreements hitherto made, it appears expedient to establish uniform rules throughout the island for the guidance of all parties concerned, it is enacted and ordained:

PARA. 1. All engagements of laborers now domiciled on landed estates, and receiving wages in money or in kind for cultivating and working such estates, are to be continued, as directed by the ordinance of 29th July, 1848, until the 1st day of October of the present year; and all similar engagements shall in future be made, or shall be considered as having been made, for a term of twelve months, viz: from the 1st of October till the 1st of October, year after year.

Engagements made by heads of families are to include their children between five and fifteen years of age, and other relatives depending on them and staying with them.

PARA. 2. No laborer engaged as aforesaid in the cultivation of the soil shall be discharged or dismissed from, nor shall be permitted to dissolve, his or her engagement before the expiration of the same on the 1st of October of the present or of any following year, except in the instances hereafter enumerated:

A. By mutual agreement of master and laborer before a magistrate.

B. By order of a magistrate, on just and equitable cause being shown by the parties interested.

Legal marriage, and the natural tie between mothers and their children, shall be deemed by the magistrate just and legal cause of removal from one estate to another. The husband shall have the right to be removed to his wife, the wife to her husband, and children under fifteen years of age to their mother, provided

no objection to employing such individuals shall be made by the owner of the estate to which the removal is to take place.

PARA. 3. No engagement of a laborer shall be lawful in future unless made in the presence of witnesses and entered in the day-book of the estate.

PARA. 4. Notice to quit service shall be given by the employer, as well as by the laborer, at no other period but once a year, in the month of August, not before the first nor after the last day of the said month. An entry thereof shall be made in the day-book, and an acknowledgment in writing shall be given to the laborer.

The laborer shall have given or received legal notice of removal from the estate where he serves before any one can engage his services. Otherwise the new contract to be void, and the party engaging or tampering with a laborer employed by others will be dealt with according to law.

In case any owner or manager of an estate should dismiss a laborer during the year without sufficient cause, or should refuse to receive him at the time stipulated, or refuse to grant him a passport when due notice of removal has been given, the owner or manager is to pay full damages to the laborer, and to be sentenced to a fine not exceeding $20.

PARA. 5. Laborers employed or rated as first, second, or third class laborers shall perform all the work in the field, or about the works, or otherwise concerning the estate, which it hitherto has been customary for such laborers to perform according to the season. They shall attend faithfully to their work, and willingly obey the directions given by the employer or the person appointed by him. No laborer shall presume to dictate what work he or she is to do, or refuse the work he may be ordered to perform, unless expressly engaged for some particular work only. If a laborer thinks himself aggrieved, he shall not therefore leave the work, but in due time apply for redress to the owner of the estate or to the magistrate.

It is the duty of all laborers on all occasions and at all times to protect the property of his employer, to prevent mischief to the estate, to apprehend evil-doers, and not to give countenance to, or conceal, unlawful practices.

PARA. 6. The working days to be, as usual, only five days in the week, and the same days as hitherto. The ordinary work of estates is to commence at sunrise and to be finished at sunset every day, leaving one hour for breakfast, and two hours at noon from 12 to 2 o'clock.

Planters who prefer to begin the work at 7 o'clock in the morning, making no separate breakfast time, are at liberty to adopt this plan, either during the year or when out of crop.

The laborers shall be present in due time at the place where they are to work. The list to be called and answered regularly; whoever does not answer the list when called is too late.

PARA. 7. No throwing of grass or of wood shall be exacted during extra hours, all former agreements to the contrary notwithstanding; but during crop the laborers are expected to bring home a bundle of longtops from the field where they are at work.

Cartmen and crook-people, when breaking off, shall attend properly to their stock, as hitherto usual.

PARA. 8. During crop the mill-gang, the crook-gang, boilermen, firemen, still-men, and any other persons employed about the mill and the boiling house, shall continue their work during breakfast and noon hours, as hitherto usual, and the boilermen, firemen, magass carriers, &c., also during evening hours after sunset, when required; but all workmen employed as aforesaid shall be paid an extra remuneration for the work done by them in extra hours.

The boiling house is to be cleared, the mill to be washed down, and the magass to be swept up, before the laborers leave the work, as hitherto usual.

The mill is not to turn after six o'clock in the evening, and the boiling not to

be continued after ten o'clock, except by special permission of the governor general, who then will determine if any, and what extra remuneration shall be paid to the laborers.

PARA. 9. The laborers are to receive, until otherwise ordered, the following remuneration:

A. The use of a house or dwelling rooms for themselves and their children, to be built and repaired by the estate, but to be kept in proper order by the laborers.

B. The use of a piece of provision ground, thirty feet in square as usual, for every first and second class laborer; or, if it be standing ground, up to fifty feet in square. Third-class laborers are not entitled to, but may be allowed some provision ground.

C. Weekly wages at the rate of fifteen cents to every first-class laborer, of ten cents to every second-class laborer, and of five cents to every third-class laborer, for every working day.

Where the usual allowance of meal and herrings has been agreed on in part of wages, full weekly allowance shall be taken for five cents a day, or twenty-five cents a week.

Nurses losing two hours every working day shall be paid at the rate of four full working days in the week.

The wages of minors to be paid as usual to their parents, or to the person in charge of them.

Laborers not calling at pay-time personally, or by another authorized, to wait till next pay day, unless they were prevented by working for the estate.

No attachment of wages for private debts to be allowed, nor more than two-thirds to be deducted for debts to the estate, unless otherwise ordered by the magistrate.

Extra provisions occasionally given during the ordinary working hours are not to be claimed as a right, nor to be bargained for.

PARA. 10. Work in extra hours during crop is to be paid as follows:

To the mill-gang and to the crook-gang, for working through the breakfast hour, one stiver; and for working through noon, two stivers per day.

Extra provision is not to be given, except at the option of the laborers, in place of the money or in part of it.

The boilermen, firemen, and magass carriers are to receive, for all days when the boiling is carried on until late hours, a maximum pay of twenty (20) cents per day. No bargaining for extra pay by the hour is permitted.

Laborers working such extra hours only by turns are not to have additional payment.

PARA. 11. Tradesmen on estates are considered as engaged to perform the same work as hitherto usual—assisting in the field, carting, potting sugar, &c. They shall be rated as first, second, and third-class laborers, according to their proficiency. Where no definite terms have been agreed on previously, the wages of first class tradesmen, having full work in their trade, are to be twenty (20) cents per day. Any existing contract with tradesmen is to continue until October next.

No tradesman is allowed to keep apprentices without the consent of the owner of the estate. Such apprentices to be bound for no less period than three years, and not to be removed without the permission of the magistrate.

PARA. 12. No laborer is obliged to work for others on Saturdays; but if they choose to work for hire, it is proper that they should give their own estate the preference. For a full day's work on Saturday there shall not be asked for nor given more than twenty (20) cents to a first-class laborer: thirteen (13) cents to a second-class laborer: seven (7) cents to a third-class laborer.

Work on Saturday may, however, be ordered by the magistrate as a punishment to the laborer for having absented himself from work during the week for

one whole day or more, and for having been idle during the week; and then the laborer shall not receive more than his usual pay for a common day's work.

PARA. 13. All the male laborers, tradesmen included, above 18 years of age, working on an estate, are bound to take the usual night watch by turns, but only once in ten days. Notice to be given before noon to break off from work in the afternoon with the nurses, and to come to work next day at 8 o'clock. The watch to be delivered in the usual manner by nightfall and by sunrise.

The above rule shall not be compulsory except where voluntary watchmen cannot be obtained at a hire the planters may be willing to give to save the time lost by employing their ordinary laborers as watchmen.

Likewise the male laborers are bound once a month, on Sundays and holidays, to take the day watch about the yard, and to act as pasture men, on receiving their usual pay for a week-day's work. This rule applies also to the crook-boys.

All orders about the watches to be duly entered in the day-book of the estate.

Should a laborer, having been duly warned to take the watch, not attend, another laborer is to be hired in the place of the absentee and at his expense, not, however, to exceed fifteen cents. The person who wilfully leaves the watch or neglects it, is to be reported to the magistrate, and punished as the case merits.

PARA. 14. Laborers wilfully abstaining from work on a working day are to forfeit their wages for the day, and will have to pay, over and above the forfeit, a fine which can be lawfully deducted in their wages, of seven (7) cents for a first-class laborer, five (5) cents for a second-class laborer, and two (2) cents for a third-class laborer.

In crop, on grinding days, when employed about the works, in cutting canes, or in crook, an additional punishment will be awarded for wilful absence and neglect, by the magistrate, on complaint being made.

Laborers abstaining from work for half a day, or breaking off from work before being dismissed, to forfeit their wages for one day.

Laborers not coming to work in due time to forfeit half a day's wages.

Parents keeping their children from work shall be fined instead of the children.

No charge of house rent is to be made in future on account of absence from work, or for the Saturday.

PARA. 15. Laborers wilfully abstaining from work for two or more days during the week, or habitually absenting themselves, or working badly and lazily, shall be punished as the case merits, on complaint to the magistrate.

PARA. 16. Laborers assaulting any person in authority on the estate, or planning or conspiring to retard or to stop the work of the estate, or uniting to abstain from work, or to break their engagements, shall be punished according to law, on investigation before a magistrate.

PARA. 17. Until measures can be adopted for securing medical attendance to the laborers, and for regulating the treatment of the sick and the infirm, it is ordered:

That infirm persons, unfit for any work, shall, as hitherto, be maintained on the estates where they are domiciled, and be attended to by their next relations.

That parents or children of such infirm persons shall not remove from the estate, leaving them behind, without making provision for them to the satisfaction of the owner or of the magistrate.

That laborers, unable to attend to work on account of illness, or on account of having sick children, shall make a report to the manager, or any other person in authority on the estate, who, if the case appears dangerous and the sick person destitute, shall cause medical assistance to be given.

That all sick laborers willing to remain in the hospital during their illness, shall there be attended to at the cost of the estate.

PARA. 18. If a laborer reported sick shall be at any time found absent from the estate without leave, or is trespassing about the estate, or found occupied

with work requiring health, he shall be considered skulking and wilfully absent from work.

When a laborer pretends illness, and is not apparently sick, it shall be his duty to prove his illness by medical certificate.

PARA. 19. Pregnant women shall be at liberty to work with the small gang, as customary, and when confined not to be called on to work for seven weeks after their confinement.

Young children shall be fed and attended to during the hours of work at some proper place, at the cost of the estate.

Nobody is allowed to stay from work on pretence of attending a sick person, except the wife and the mother, in dangerous cases of illness.

PARA. 20. It is the duty of the managers to report to the police any contagious or suspicious cases of illness and death, especially when gross neglect is believed to have taken place, or when children have been neglected by their mothers, in order that the guilty person may be punished according to law.

PARA. 21. The driver or foreman on the estate is to receive in wages four and a half dollars monthly, if no other terms have been agreed on. The driver may be dismissed at any time during the year, with the consent of the magistrate. It is the duty of the driver to see the work duly performed, to maintain order and peace on the estate during the work and at other times, and to prevent and report all offences committed. Should any laborer insult or use insulting language towards him during or on account of the performance of his duties, such person is to be punished according to law.

PARA. 22. No laborer is allowed, without the special permission of the owner or manager, to appropriate wood, grass, vegetables, fruits, or the like, belonging to the estate, nor to appropriate such produce from other estates, nor to cut canes, or to burn charcoal. Persons making themselves guilty of such offences shall be punished, according to law, with fines or imprisonment with hard labor; and the possession of such articles, not satisfactorily accounted for, shall be sufficient evidence of unlawful acquisition.

PARA. 23. All agreements contrary to the above rules are to be null and void, and owners and managers of estates convicted of any practice tending wilfully to counteract or avoid these rules, by direct or indirect means, shall be subject to a fine not exceeding two hundred dollars.

P. HANSEN.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
St. Croix, January 26, 1849.

Colonel Raasloff to Mr. Seward.

DANISH LEGATION,
Washington, May 26, 1862.

SIR: I had the honor, in my note of April 23 last, to inform you that I was prepared to negotiate and to sign a special convention for the emigration of free negroes from this country to the Danish West India island of St. Croix, and beg leave now to add that I am likewise prepared to negotiate and to conclude a special convention for the transfer to that island of Africans who may hereafter be found on board of slavers captured by cruisers of the United States. The terms which, as stated in my above-mentioned note, I am authorized to offer to free negroes emigrating from this country to St. Croix would likewise, at least essentially, and as a basis for the proposed negotiation, be applicable to captured Africans, with the exception only that these latter would have to serve an apprenticeship of a certain number of, say, five, years, as third and second class laborers on a sugar plantation, during which time, however, they

would, in every other respect, be treated entirely the same as the native free rural population. I shall, for the better understanding of this proposition, beg leave to refer to the memorandum which accompanied my note of April 23 last, in which I described the condition of that population, and from which, as well as from the provincial act of July 26, 1849, a printed copy of which was annexed to that memorandum, it will be seen that laborers in St. Croix are, in regard to pay, divided into three classes, according to the amount and quality of labor which they are able to perform. The captured African, who generally is almost a savage, entirely unaccustomed to and unacquainted with regular agricultural labor, would therefore quite naturally and justly have to pass through the lower classes, and not become entitled to form part of the first class, which involves the highest pay, before having acquired the knowledge, ability, and physical strength and endurance of which full-grown men of the native free population of the island are generally possessed. The Danish laws, by which the condition of that population has been regulated, and by which a happy existence has been secured to them, would thus, as you will perceive, be directly and justly applicable to the captured Africans, and be eminently proper, gradually and surely to prepare them for a rational enjoyment of entire freedom; every means for their instruction in the Christian religion and for the schooling of their children being also amply provided for; besides, the process of education and improvement would be greatly facilitated by their being made to live with an excellent and highly civilized colored population, and under the special protection of public authorities and magistrates appointed by the crown. I feel satisfied, therefore, that no other tropical country could offer, through its laws and the organization of its society, the same guarantees for the happiness and gradual civilization of the African who should be brought thither after having been rescued from the hold of a slaver, as those which I have above enumerated, and that the arrangement which I have the honor of proposing for the transfer of those people to this island of St. Croix would be entirely satisfactory from a Christian and a humane point of view, and would moreover relieve the United States from a great moral responsibility and from the very large expense which, if I am correctly informed, is connected with the present arrangement for the transfer of captured Africans to the territory of the republic of Liberia.

I avail myself of this occasion to offer you, sir, renewed assurances of my very high consideration.

W. RAASLOFF.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State of the United States, Washington, D. C.

SURINAM.

The communication of the minister of the Netherlands, Mr. Roest Van Lamburg, in behalf of his government, inquiring "whether the United States government will be disposed to co-operate with the government of the Netherlands in the transportation of free colored laborers from the United States to the Netherland colony of Surinam."

"The government of the King would desire them to engage, for a certain number of years, (five years, for example,) their labor to a planter, under the protection of the Netherland laws, and with some advantages attached to their immigration into a country so fertile and so extended as is the above mentioned."

The general aspect of this country is that of British Guiana. It has an area of 60,000 square miles. The Surinam is the principal river, with a rich and fertile soil highly cultivated, producing coffee, cotton, and sugar.

The population of this country consists of 54,000 negroes, and about six or seven thousand white persons. Such is the preponderance of colored population in all those countries in South America over whites.

BRITISH GUIANA.

The proposition of Hon. W. Walker, government secretary of the British colony of Guiana.

To this proposition we attach importance, as the first official expression of the disposition of English authorities to kindly consider our embarrassments as a republican people.

Mr. Walker came to the United States expressly to form some plan of aiding the emigration of persons of color to the colony of whose government he is a member. He filed his instructions in this office, appointed an agent of emigration in the city of New York, and presents the following proposition in a letter to me, which, from the general interest now taken in South America, I will give at length:

NEW YORK, *October* 13, 1862.

SIR: On the eve of my return to British Guiana, I am induced by the interest you have manifested in the subject of the mission with which I have been intrusted, namely, to endeavor to arrange for the immigration of freed negroes into that rising and important tropical country, to place before you the views of the government, of which I am an officer, and the inducements which the colony offers to the settlement of persons of the African race accustomed to agricultural labor.

This fine and fertile province, which has now been in the undisturbed possession of the British for about sixty years, lies on the northeastern shore of South America, and consequently enjoys the benefit of the steady trade-wind from that quarter, which, with the natural humidity of the atmosphere, tempers the heat and renders the temperature equable throughout the year. It has an extent of sea-coast of about 280 miles, with an almost unlimited depth towards the interior, is watered by magnificent rivers and smaller streams.

The productiveness of its soil is unsurpassed, and it possesses inexhaustible forests of the finest wood, of which the export is annually increasing. At present its only cultivated staple is sugar, cotton and coffee having been abandoned wholly from the deficient supply of labor. The cotton of this colony ranks, probably, next to sea island, in length and fineness of staple, some wild samples having been valued by Liverpool brokers a few months ago at 60 cents per pound.

The cultivation of the sugar-cane and manufacture of sugars are and have for many years been chiefly dependent on imported labor, partly captured Africans, partly natives of Madeira, but chiefly from India and (latterly) China.

The Creole, or native peasantry of African stock, are so independent that they will only work *when* they and at *what* they please, and for such wages as they choose to demand. When I left, in August, they were earning, men 72 cents, and women 48 cents per diem, and this was lower than before the markets at home were depressed in consequence of the war in these States. Boys and girls earn in proportion, or, rather, they receive as much as men and women formerly did. Now, the only labor which the planters can *depend upon* is that of the immigrants, who work under engagements, some for three, as the African and Portuguese; others, as the Indian and Chinese, for five years; and this is what makes them so valuable to the planter, so that he not only pays a large part of the expense of bringing them to the colony, but he provides them with houses and land for gardens, rent free, a hospital and doctor, under the inspection of the colonial government; but he pays them for the same quantity and quality of work the same money wages as the native laborer receives.

All the work on estates is invariably done by task; one of which is estimated to occupy nine hours. There is a written rule of 7½ hours, but the immigrant under engagement is only bound to perform five tasks, or forty-five hours' labor, in the week; he *may* work more if he pleases, and will, of course, be paid in proportion.

To show the ease with which property is acquired by industrious men, the captured Africans, in a few years, buy land for themselves, while the Indian, on his part, saves his money to take home. When I left, a ship was loading for Calcutta with about four hundred East India people, going home; they had in money about $40,000, besides their gold and silver ornaments, which they wear about their persons.

But the necessity for labor is so great that if the freed negroes who have been accustomed to work on the sugar, and cotton, and rice plantations, can be induced to settle there, we ask them to come under an engagement to work on some estate for three years, at the end of which we offer the free gift of a piece of land for residence and cultivation, in addition to all the advantages I have above specified. But if the immigrant prefer it, he may break the engagement at the end of the first year, on paying two-thirds of the expense of bringing him to the colony, or at the end of the second on paying one-third in like manner. In this case, however, he will not be entitled to the free grant of land.

But again, besides the enormous area of land never yet cultivated, there are large tracts of estates of which the cultivation has been abandoned, lying on the sea-coast and adjacent to existing cultivation. Now, if bodies of the freed negroes who do not wish to come under engagements of service on the estates can be sent to the colony free of expense, the government is prepared to give them a cordial reception, and, on due notice being given, to place them in eligible positions for providing for themselves—the actual cost of the land and houses being repayable by small annual instalments, extending over, say, five or seven years. For this purpose families would of course be preferred, so that they might settle down in village communities and be able to assist each other.

So far as my own opinion is of any value, I am quite certain that the engagement system is the best for both parties *to begin with*, and that it might be beneficially extended, especially to laborers recently relieved from the restraints of slavery, to five years, liberty being always reserved to them to buy the remainder of their five at the end of any year.

It is so important for them to have a house and garden *provided for them*, and a doctor and hospital in case of sickness, and to be under the direct supervision of the government officers until they are in a position to take care of themselves, that I am sure I am consulting their true interests in recommending this.

The labor laws of the colony are framed in a considerate spirit and upon equitable principles. A paid magistrate resides in each district, of which there are fifteen in the colony, whose special duty it is to receive and decide complaints between employer and laborer, master and servant. Should his decision be unsatisfactory, an appeal lies to a judge of the supreme court, who sits every Saturday for that purpose; and in any case resort may be had to the governor himself, who is always accessible either personally or by petition, and who always, when applied to, inquires into the grounds of the magistrate's decision.

With respect to the numbers of such laborers who would be received, it may be safely put down for the present at a minimum of 10,000 per annum, or, say, one thousand per month, assuming that the supply can be guaranteed as to numbers and permanency, so as to enable the colonial government to discontinue its existing arrangements for the importation of Asiatic laborers, which is a very important point.

I do not consider that it enters into my promise to discuss the questions of policy with which this subject may be interwoven; but, assuming that the class

of laborers of African descent to which I have above more especially attended is at liberty, and is disposed to emigrate, I have no hesitation in declaring my conviction that there is no intertropical country in this hemisphere which offers greater advantages for their settlement than British Guiana; and I say this without in the least desiring to undervalue other localities, many of which in the West India Islands I am personally acquainted with.

They would find the same language spoken; they would find churches, chapels, schools, ministers, and teachers ready, provided, and anxious to do them and their children good; and they would find not merely theoretically free institutions, but a practical exposition of the principle that we do not regard a man's race or color of his skin as determining his social position, which depends upon his own conduct and character to establish and determine.

I am not aware that I need add more to this sketch, but should there be any point omitted, or in respect to which you would desire fuller information, I beg you to be assured that it will afford me the greatest pleasure to supply what may be indicated as wanted.

I remain yours, &c.,

W. WALKER.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

Whilst speaking of colonization on British territory, it may be well to state that a tract of country in British Honduras, consisting of one hundred and fifty square miles, has been brought to our notice by that able advocate and friend of the colored man, Miss Anna Ella Carroll. The land is the property of a gentleman who proposed to sell it to the United States government for the sum of $75,000. The tract is bounded on one side by the sea, and has several improved plots upon it.

As a number of persons have spoken of British Honduras as a place desirable for the colored emigrant, permit me to quote the terms on which foreigners may be naturalized in that country, as drawn from the laws of the country:

"An act to declare the right and privilege of aliens within this settlement, and to facilitate their naturalization, passed the legislature February 7, 1855. Received the royal assent and proclaimed July 19, 1855.

"Americans and other citizens wishing to reside in British Honduras, and desirous to be on equality with a British-born subject, can take out certificate of naturalization; the full privilege is then granted by her Majesty's superintendent same as if British born."

Foreigners can then become members of their colonial legislative body.

I presume that colored men will find an open door in all tropical territories of Great Britain.

During the last session of Congress a law was passed whereby the republics of Hayti and Liberia were recognized and admitted to diplomatic relations—an act of justice too long delayed.

Both those nations are candidates for our surplus colored population, and both need all the fresh blood engrafted on them this nation can spare. They are *de facto* colored nationalities, struggling to follow in the wake of the "great republic." Both deserve our sympathy and material aid; and it is undoubtedly the will of this nation to render them, as separate nationalities, all the aid within our power. Well may we mourn the opportunities past, and we fear gone forever, when the nation saw the necessity, but heeded not, grudging the smallest pittance to such objects, until now no longer does the swollen flood of wealth flow in the channels of peace, but, turned aside into those of war, our national substance is being wasted, and growing more shallow every month. But, to return to the review of the colonization propositions before us, I rank Liberia next in order.

LIBERIA.

This republic, through its president, S. A. Benson, whilst on a late visit to London, negotiated a commercial treaty with this country, through the agency of Mr. Adams, to whom Mr. Seward had intrusted this work for the accommodation of Mr. Benson.

I learn from Mr. J. D. Johnson, the special commissioner for Liberia, that an additional treaty in regard to emigration is desired. He informs me that 50,000,000 acres of land, under the jurisdiction of his country, have been set off for the use and benefit of colored emigrants from the United States, and that he is now expecting directions from his government as to the terms on which to negotiate an emigration treaty.

I trust that Liberian commerce will somehow be favored above all other foreign commerce, and that her productions will bring a premium in all our markets. She is the creature of our own effort, and will be the monument of our liberality. Her organized advocates are scattered all over this country; I congratulate them on this crowning triumph of their efforts, through the liberality and enlightened statesmanship of this administration.

The New York Colonization Society, through its secretary, Rev. Dr. Binney, lately appointed consul general of Liberia, proposes to carry emigrants to Liberia, and support them six months for about $85 per capita.

The American Colonization Society, through its financial secretary, Rev. Wm. McLain, proposes to carry emigrants and support them a like time for the sum of $100 per capita. As a matter of course, all the profits, if any should be made in the carrying trade, go into the general funds of the Colonization Society; but it is claimed, and I presume justly claimed, that the work cannot be done for less.

HAYTI.

The claims of Hayti for recognition have at last been honored. Commercial relations, however, have not been fully established. The government thereof commissioned Col. Ernest Roumain a special commissioner of emigration to visit this country, and reorganize its office of emigration by appointing Mr. G. Lawrence their agent. His office is No. 55 Liberty street, New York.

There is a proposition in the interest of Hayti now before the President. At his request, I examined it and prepared the drafts of contracts and agreements, which are now being considered.

It is proposed to select *one* of the islands of Hayti, and constitute it an industrial establishment, from which the main island can gradually draw enterprising, skilled, and moral citizens, acclimated and ready to take useful positions in the republic.

Bernard Kock, the gentleman who makes this proposition, is a practical business man.

In a letter to the President he thus describes the island:

"The most beautiful, healthy, and fertile of all the islands belonging to the republic of Hayti is the island of A'Vache, which is about twelve miles from the city of Aux Cayes. It covers an area of about a hundred square miles, is known to be free from reptiles, and to have a healthy and agreeable temperature, the thermometer rising rarely above 80° in the shade, in consequence of its exposure to the trade-winds. The interior of the island is hilly, in some places rising as high as three hundred feet above the level of the sea. It is well timbered with mahogany, oak, hard, and dye woods, while in the neighborhood of the coast it is mostly prairie land, and ready for the plough. As would be expected in a country like this, the soil and climate are adapted for all tropical productions, particularly sugar, coffee, indigo, and, more especially, cotton, which is indige-

nous. Upon the north side of the island is the beautiful bay of Ferret, with an average depth of twenty-eight feet, upon whose bosom a large fleet could repose in safety, secure from the storms of the ocean; and here it is proposed to erect a commercial city, with all the conveniences necessary to such an enterprise.

"Before the revolution which gave St. Domingo to the colored race, a portion of this island was cultivated by the Duke of Praslin, to whom it belonged by right of concession, but the French were driven from it, and for nearly a hundred years it has been a solitary waste, awaiting the hand of industry to awaken its echoes.

"Attracted by its beauty, the value of its timber, its extreme fertility, and its adaptation for the cultivation of cotton, I prevailed upon President Geffrard to concede the island to me for twenty years, the documentary evidence of which has been lodged with the Secretary of the Interior."

By the terms of the deed of concession, Mr. Kock has the exclusive right to cut timber for commercial purposes by paying a part of the amount cut. The government gives him the free use of the soil cultivated for the subsistence of his colony, while it charges a small sum per acre for all that may be used for cultivating "colonial productions" for the market, such as cotton, coffee, &c. The rent for the cultivation of these articles is not set forth in the contract, but by letter of the 8th instant, in answer to my objections on this point, he informs me that the rent has been agreed on. He says: "The rent which I shall have to pay for this selected land is, according to law, five (5) Haytian dollars for one carreau of three and one-third American acres, to be paid at the end of each year." This explanation makes his contract perfect. We have been informed that the Haytian government grants a premium on the production of cotton that will go far to discharge this rent.

He has obligated himself to commence the cultivation of the island on or before the 8th of February, 1863. There are two crops in the year on those islands.

He wishes to begin with such a number of families as will make about one thousand persons—men, women, and children—to be gradually increased to about five thousand persons.

He will give each family a comfortably furnished house, with a garden spot attached, and, without extra charge to them, supply all their provisions, provide a hospital and medical attendance, a church, and school-house, with a New England Christian minister and New England school-teachers. With each family he will make a contract for four years, and will pay them more liberal wages than is now paid in any of the West India islands. And, besides this, he has further obligated himself annually to divide amongst the colonists, according to the amount of labor performed by each one, ten per cent. of the net proceeds of their combined toil and industry, thus making each operative a joint stock proprietor with himself, and hence stimulating them to increased exertion by the same prospect of a rich reward. I am free to confess that I demanded more for them of the net profits than ten per cent., but Mr. Kock has promised, should crops be abundant and market good, to distribute prizes on the first of January each year to such as have proved themselves worthy.

At the expiration of the time for which these persons are employed, the government of Hayti, by a special law, will give to each family sixteen acres of good land, and to each single person eight acres, and, by express provision in the deed of concession, at the expiration of the time the whole island of A'Vache, with its cultivated portions, will thus be divided amongst those whose labor and enterprise have redeemed it from waste and desolation, and we may add that the commerce of the island, if any should spring up, will flow into the hands of the new possessors.

For the fulfilment of those terms and conditions, Mr. Kock proposes placing his effects and property on this island under mortgage, in a penal sum to be

fixed by the President, and to entertain an agent of this government free of expense.

A draft of proposed local regulations has been submitted, and it is all that the best of men could ask. The insular position of the colony secures full scope to those regulations, and enables the controllers of society to preserve order. A respect for the Sabbath, temperance, the attendance of the children at school until they have completed their thirteenth year, are all required.

The following are the laws of the republic relating to emigration and the naturalization of the emigrant, with an introductory appeal of one of their state officers:

"*Call for emigration.*

"Men of our race dispersed in the United States! Your fate, your social position, instead of ameliorating, daily becomes worse. The chains of those who are slaves are rivetted; and prejudice, more implacable, perhaps, than servitude, pursues and crushes down the free. Everything is contested with us in that country in which, nevertheless, they boast of liberty; they have invented a new slavery for the free, who believed that they had now no masters; it is this humiliating patronage which is revolting to your hearts. Philanthropy, in spite of its noble efforts, seems more powerless than ever to lead your cause to victory. Contempt and hatred increase against you, and the people of the United States desire to eject you from its bosom.

"Come, then, to us! The doors of Hayti are open to you. By happy coincidence, which Providence seems to have brought about in your behalf, Hayti has risen from the long debasement in which a tyrannical government had held her; liberty is restored there. Come and join us; come and bring to us a contingent of power, of light, of labor; come, and, together with us, advance our own common country in prosperity. We will come by this means to the aid of the philanthropists who make such generous efforts to break the chains of those of our brethren who are still in slavery.

"Our institutions are liberal. The government is mild and moderate. Our soil is virgin and rich; we have large tracts of good land, nearly all uncultivated, which only need intelligent workmen to till them. Everything assures you in this country of a happy future. For those among you who possess capital, it will be easy to find at once a place among us. The country offers them immediate resources. They can count on the solicitude of the government, and on its special protection. Our society is ready to adopt them, and prepares for them a fraternal welcome. They will enjoy here all the considerations that they merit; they will occupy the rank that their respectability assigns them—all the things that a blind and barbarous prejudice refuses to them in countries inhospitable to our race.

"The poorer emigrants shall have the right to all that their situation demands. The government will provide for their first necessities, and will take the proper measures to secure to them a quiet and honorable asylum, as well as to facilitate for them the means of obtaining employment.

"It is very natural that you should ask before coming to an unknown country, what are the facilities that will be afforded to you, as well for the satisfaction of your first needs, as for your definitive settlement. This thought has seriously occupied the chief of the republic and his government.

"I proceed to state the determination to which it has come:

"To such of you as are not able to pay the expenses of your passage, aid will be given from the public treasury.

"Agents, whom I shall presently appoint in the United States, will be charged to make the necessary arrangements in this respect.

"On their arrival here the emigrants will find lodging gratuitously, where, during the first few days, their needs will be provided for.

"Government will occupy itself from this time with providing means to offer to each person, on arrival, either on private estates or the public domains, sufficiently remunerative work.

"Every individual, the issue of African blood, may, immediately on arrival, declare his wish to be naturalized; and after one year's residence he can become a citizen of Hayti, enjoying all his civil and political rights.

"The emigrants will be exempt from military service, but their children, when they are of the requisite age, shall be held to perform the service conformably to the laws of the country; that is to say, for a limited time, and by the result of conscription. (*Par suite du tirage au sort.*) This conscription does not constitute, in their favor, a modification of the law on the national guard, of which every citizen must form a part.

"You will have power also freely to exercise your religion.

"I have spoken here only of the members of the African race who groan in the United States more than elsewhere, by reason of the ignoble prejudice of color; but our sympathies are equally extended to all those of our origin who, throughout the world, are bowed down under the weight of the same sufferings. Let them come to us! The bosom of the country is open to them also. I repeat it, they will be able to acquire, either on the public or private estates, fertile lands, where, by the aid of assiduous labor, they will find that happiness which in their actual condition they cannot hope to find.

"The man whom God has pointed out with his finger to elevate the dignity of his race is found! The hour of the reunion of the children of Hayti is sounded! Let them be well convinced that Hayti is the bulwark of their liberty!

"Given at the office of the secretary of state of the interior, at Port au Prince, the 22d of August, 1859, fifty-sixth year of independence.

"The secretary of state of justice and of worship, charged, *par interim*, with the portfolio of the interior and of agriculture.

"F. E. DUBOIS."

"*Laws of emigration.*

"I.—Laws on the emigration into the country of persons of the African and Indian races.

"Fabre Geffrard, president of Hayti, by the advice of the council of the secretaries of state and the legislative bodies, after having considered and declared the urgency of it, has rendered the following law:

"ARTICLE 1. After the promulgation of the present law, five carreaux of land will be granted, free of all charge, to every family of laborers or cultivators of the African or Indian races who shall arrive in the republic. This grant will be reduced two carreaux when the laborer or cultivator is unmarried.

"ART. 2. These grants will be delivered without expense, and with a provisional title, to every family that shall have made before the proper magistrate the declaration prescribed by law with the view of obtaining naturalization, and they will be converted into final grants after a residence of a year and a day in the country.

"ART. 3. The final grants will be given in exchange for the provisional grants only when it shall have been ascertained by the government agents that cultivation has already commenced on the property granted.

"ART. 4. The grantee shall not have power to dispose of his grant before the expiration of seven consecutive years of occupation. Nevertheless, he will be able to obtain the authority to exchange his grant for another property, but only on the conditions, terms, and with the powers above named.

"The present law shall be promptly executed by the secretary of state of the interior and of agriculture.

"Given at the national house of Port au Prince, the 7th of September, year fifty-seventh of independence.

"F. LACRUZ,
"*The President of the Senate.*
"CELESTIN,
"J. Y. MENDOZA,
"*The Secretaries.*

"Given at the chamber of representatives of Port au Prince, the 5th September, 1860, year fifty-seventh of independence.

"W. CHANLATTE,
"*The President of the Chamber.*
"J. THEBAUD,
"F. RICHIEZ,
"*The Secretaries.*

"In the name of the republic, the president of Hayti ordains that the foregoing law of the legislative bodies be stamped with the seal of the republic, published, and executed.

"Given at the national palace of Port au Prince, the 6th September, 1860, year fifty-seventh of independence.

"By the President:

"GEFFRARD.
"F. JN. JOSEPH,
"*The Secretary of State of the Interior and of Agriculture.*
"T. DEJOIE,
"*The Secretary of War and the Marine.*
"JH. LAMOTHE,
"*The Keeper of the Seals, Secretary of State of the General Police.*
"F. E. DUBOIS,
"*The Secretary of State of Justice, &c.*
"VN. PLESANCE,
"*The Secretary of State of Finances, Commerce, and Exterior Relations.*"

"II.—Laws on the naturalization of emigrants of the African and Indian races.

"Fabre Geffrard, on the report of the secretary of state of justice, and by the advice of the council of the secretaries of state, considering that prompt action is demanded in behalf of those who possess the required qualifications to become Haytians, in order to enable them with facility to enter into the immediate enjoyment of the right attached to naturalization, proposes the following law:

"ARTICLE 1. Article 14 of the civil code is modified as follows: All those who by virtue of the constitution are able to acquire the rights of Haytian citizens, must, during the first month of their arrival in the country, before the justice of the peace of their residence, and in presence of two well-known citizens, make a declaration to the effect that they come with the intention of settling in the republic. They will at the same time, before the justice of the peace, take oath that they renounce every other country save Hayti.

"ART. 2. Provided with the verbal process of the justice of the peace, setting forth the declaration that they come to settle in the republic, and their taking of the oath, they will present themselves at the offices of the president of Hayti, to receive an act from the chief of the state recognizing them citizens of the republic.

"ART. 3. The present law annuls all laws or measures which are contrary to it, and shall be executed with despatch by the secretary of state for justice.

"Given at the national palace, at Port au Prince, the 27th day of August, 1860, the fifty-seventh year of independence.

"GEFFRARD."

(Then follow the signatures of various officials, as in the previous law. Both of these laws were unanimously passed through both branches of the legislature.)

CHIRIQUI.

The proposition of Mr. A. W. Thompson to colonize that portion of Chiriqui in the republic of New Granada, or United States of Colombia, as it is now called, which he claims under certain deeds and grants from the authorities of that country, containing about 2,000,000 acres, more or less, and stretching from sea to sea, including on the northeast side the important harbor of the Chiriqui lagoon. On his proposition a contract was closed with him on the 12th of September ultimo, containing the following provisions:

It provides that the Hon. S. C. Pomeroy, as special agent of the government, acting as such without compensation, shall examine the titles of said Thompson, the location of the lands and adaptation for purposes of settlement. If all this "be found correct by said Hon. S. C. Pomeroy, who is to be the judge thereof, then the said Pomeroy is hereby authorized, on behalf of the United States, to order a contract for such works, improvements, and sites as are hereinafter set forth."

The agricultural lands within the said grants shall be open to all colored emigrants from the United States, and be conveyed to them in fee simple in quantities as follows: For each male adult, unmarried, 20 acres; for each head of a family of five persons and under, 40 acres; and for each head of a family of more than five persons, 80 acres. The lands to be surveyed at the expense of Thompson, but the money therefor advanced by the United States not to exceed at one time more than $10,000. They are to be conveyed to emigrants by the Secretary of the Interior and the officers of the (colonization) department, who are to be empowered with a perpetual power by said Thompson to convey to emigrants as above. Thompson reserving the right to convey, as above, to colored men. Thompson reserves all coal and minerals on said lands thus granted, and all town sites to be laid off by him, the right of way for all roads of every description, with the right to enter on said lands for timber and stone to construct and maintain the road. The United States to pay $1 per acre for the lands allotted until one hundred thousand acres have been allotted. 30 per cent. to go to Thompson, and 70 per cent. to necessary improvements, such as roads, wharves, &c.

So soon as Senator Pomeroy pronounces the site eligible for colonization, &c., the United States are to advance $50,000 to Thompson to open coal and other mines, to be repaid in coal delivered at the harbor; the emigration to be carried on by Senator Pomeroy or some one appointed by the President. Mr. Thompson and family, artisans, surveyors, and laborers are privileged to voyage free in the emigrant vessels, he providing the necessary commissary stores for them; the number to be restricted to fifteen persons for each voyage.

The vessels to be employed by said Thompson to be at the service of the governments of the United States of Colombia or the United States of America, to enable them to maintain order in the Isthmus of Chiriqui, for which they will pay reasonable rates of compensation; the wharves to be free of charge to those two powers; Mr. Thompson to be responsible for the conduct of the people of color he receives on his lands.

The execution of this contract was committed to Senator Pomeroy as a special agent, and the sum of $25,000 placed in his hands to enable him to proceed. Of this transaction, so far as its terms and documentary matter are concerned,

we remained in ignorance up to the 12th of this month, when the papers of the case first came to hand, so that we can tell but little of the progress made.

It has been our desire from the time that this locality was first brought to our notice to see a settlement of colored men planted on the lands of Chiriqui, which contains one of the most desirable harbors on the northeastern shore of the isthmus; but the conflict of title and jurisdiction lately disclosed between the States of Costa Rica and New Granada has caused the State Department to injoin further progress until those *two states* permit the settlement at that point. The state of New Granada, or the United States of Colombia, as the country is now called, desires our colored emigrants, and will receive them on equal terms of citizenship with its native population. I have been informed by letter of the 15th of October, written by a gentleman in the interest of the existing government of that country, that other portions of that country are open as well as the lands of Chiriqui. He writes: "I learn that besides Cauca," (a province previously recommended,) "that the valley of the Magdalena is open to the colored emigrants; but, above all, the great river Atrata, which has an Atlantic port and is on the regular route of trade from New York to the West Indies. This is a stream large enough to float frigates seventy miles from its mouth, passing through a gold country. * * It is the great link in the Pacific ship canal so long talked about. It has a town at its head and a port at its mouth. It has a good trade with the West Indies, and is within a few days' steam of New York." This magnificent country is thrown open to the colored man, where wealth, liberty, and usefulness await him.

ECUADOR.

As pertinent to this section of South America just noted above, I will submit an abstract of a communication from a senator of Ecuador, addressed to me, offering to sell large tracts of country therein. The paper is valuable as a descriptive document, and its points may attract the eye of our colored people. I will state that it is not proposed to locate colonies on the western coast of South America, but that is no reason why the more enterprising of our colored people may not work their way over to that inviting country. I believe Senator Mala is the first Spanish landholder of large means that opens the door to them in South America.

Senator Mala "is the proprietor of a tract of territory on the shores of the river Suya, which empties into the Gulf of Guayaquil. Temperature, 27° Reaumur, producing cocoa, cotton, coffee, sugar-cane, rice, &c.; also abounding in timber of a valuable quality for building," &c.

He offers this property for the location of a colony, (price not stated,) but suggests that the payments be made in ten annual instalments. He offers to donate 100 acres of land in the centre of the tract, on which to found a town.

He states "that the fertility of the soil is as great as that on the banks of the Nile. An acre will produce 500 pounds of cotton, the plant being not an annual but perpetual shrub, growing from ten to twelve feet high; that one pound of rice will produce two hundred pounds.

"No epidemic or pestilential diseases of any kind are known on the Suya, nor is the existence of yellow fever, black vomit, cholera morbus, nor any of the pestilences of the Levant known. As regards intermittent fever and fever and ague, it is well known those diseases are not contracted by the African race.

"Slavery has been abolished in Ecuador; men of color live on equality with the whites. The laws are favorable to emigrants; new colonists are exempted from tax for a period of ten years. They can organize themselves as they wish in their municipal systems, and elect their own authorities."

After discussing the social questions at issue in this war of sections, the senator further remarks, as descriptive, in regard to colonists:

"That if located on the Suya, they could employ themselves in cutting timber,

which is very valuable at Guayaquil, and from whence it is exported in large quantities to Peru; whilst they could gather of the valuable gums and rosins an abundance in the forests of the country."

After the colonization of the Suya, he offers 100,000 acres on the fertile coasts of the province of Esmeraldas, (Ecuador,) or from one to two million acres on the shores of the Santiago, Pastora, and Napo, tributary rivers of the Amazon.

He desires to lend his services to the unfortunate negro race, and is certain of success by making them landed proprietors in his country, where they can help themselves and add to the cotton industry of the world.

I will close this abstract by giving the literal translation of the last paragraph of his letter:

"The government of the United States should give the preference to Ecuador in this project. This country is destined to found a vast commerce with the United States—the country of cereal productions and industry. By centuplicating the population of Ecuador by the importation of African blood on its ardent coasts, and in constructing a national road, a mercantile movement of great magnitude would be developed between the two countries.

"The vegetable riches which the coasts of Ecuador abound in are at present unknown treasures to the scientific and industrial world. A current of emigration from North America would be a second voyage of Columbus, for it is clear that no other means but the mercantile navy of the United States would be used to receive and transport the productions of the American negro colony, or to provide them with clothes and other necessary articles.

"BENIGNA MALA, *Senator*."

CONTRABANDS AND FREEDMEN.

Before closing this report I would call attention to the tens of thousands of freedmen cast on the country by the condition of war, and respectfully ask the power to come to the relief of such as may wish to remove out of the country. Those people are unsettled and in a wandering condition. Strangers to the people of the north, and fearing the people of the south, they want a secure and permanent home, far removed from danger and the prejudice of caste. The question that the practical man asks is, Where shall such a home be found? I have stated the above propositions and plans in answer to this; but how to effectually relieve by prompt aid is the next question.

In answer to this I will venture the suggestion: Let the government empower this office to extend aid to all the parties who can present clear evidence of their benevolent intentions to aid the freedman, or man of color, to a secure and quiet home within the tropical belt, whether on this hemisphere or on the eastern hemisphere. If he selects a home within the temperate zone, give him the liberty to settle there; but if, as a nation, we are so impoverished by this war as to have but *one* gift to give, I hope we will be pardoned for so far following the convictions of our own judgment as the majority race, and that which has the most at stake within the temperate zone, when we claim that our larger and direct appropriations of money should be made to give permanency and nationality to our colored settlements within the tropical belt.

I am in receipt of several communications relating to the propriety of including the free colored people of the whole country in the benefits of the national appropriations for colonization purposes. Our files are burdened with letters from the colored men themselves on this subject. Will not Congress extend these benefits to them? for it should not be forgotten that the law, as it now stands, strictly confines its benefits to the free people of this District and that class of persons who shall be made free, or have been made free, by the condition of war.

THE OFFICE OF EMIGRATION OR COLONIZATION.

The office or bureau of emigration must needs be a permanent matter, taking cognizance of all African colonial interests, not only those in Central America, but in Africa and the West Indies. So constituted, it must needs be the only legal and responsible office to which the legislative department can refer, or on which it can properly call for information in regard to the disposition of the funds appropriated from time to time.

Therefore, in my opinion, a set of account books should be kept in this office or department, under the supervision of the head thereof, showing the exact expenditure and disbursement of all funds appropriated in aid of negro colonization; and that those books may be reliable, each draft or warrant on said fund should be countersigned by the head of this office, and the amount and object entered in said books, of which a balance sheet should form part of the annual report.

I hope I shall be pardoned for thus pleading for circumspection; but colonization is a new work, and has many enemies who watch with care all the movements of its friends. They are but too happy to discover neglect in the management of its funds; therefore, on the very threshold of the enterprise, let us set a guard upon its reputation, or our future movements may be embarrassed.

SECRETARY SEWARD'S CIRCULAR.

Before closing this report it is proper to state that the following letter of Secretary Seward, addressed to Mr. Adams on the 30th of September ultimo, lately published in the correspondence of the State Department, must be regarded as the general outline of the plan and policy of the administration on this important subject:

"*Mr. Seward to Mr. Adams.*

"SEPTEMBER 30, 1862.

"Some foreign governments situated within the tropics, and others having colonies or dependencies there, have intimated to the President a desire to receive such accessions to their population, upon conditions favorable to the welfare, prosperity, and happiness of the emigrants.

"In view of these facts, the President has authorized me to enter into negotiations upon the subject with the government of Great Britain, if it shall be inclined to such a course.

"It is not within the purpose of this communication to present the project of a convention, but simply to state some of the general principles which this government supposes proper to be recognized in any treaties which may be contracted with reference to the objects which I have presented.

"*First.* That all emigration of persons of African derivation to take place under the stipulations of the treaty shall be perfectly free and voluntary on the part of adults, and with the full and expressed consent of parents and guardians for minor children and wards.

"*Second.* The agents of the government desiring to receive such emigrants shall be recognized by this government and authorized to solicit such emigration, but such agents shall be appointed by such government or with its sanction. Their names, with the dates of their appointments, and the terms for which they are to continue, shall be made known to this government, which shall engage to protect them while peacefully and inoffensively pursuing their occupation, but shall have always a right to require the dismissal of any such agent whose conduct or deportment shall be found injurious to the peace, safety, or welfare of the United States.

"When any government which shall have entered into the treaty shall have obtained the consent of a colony or party of emigrants, a record of their names, ages, sexes, and conditions shall be made up, with their proposed place of embarkation and destination, duly attested and verified. Such government shall then cause them, with their personal effects, to be received with all convenient despatch on board of seaworthy vessels, which shall afford them healthful and convenient accommodations of space, air, food, water, and other necessaries for their intended voyage, and shall, in all cases, suffer no cruelty, inhumanity, or unnecessary severity to be practiced upon them. And families so emigrating shall not be separated without their consent. Any party of such emigrants who may desire it may be attended by an agent, being a citizen of the United States, to be selected by them and approved by the government, who may remain with them during the voyage and after their arrival at their destination, until they shall have been established in their new settlement; but such agent shall be paid by them or by the United States, and he shall be liable to be removed or recalled by this government, and may be replaced upon representation from the other contracting party that his proceedings or conduct are disloyal or offensive to the government receiving such emigrants.

"On arriving at the place of debarkation, such emigrants shall be furnished with plain but comfortable dwellings, one for each family, or with comfortable homes in the families of resident inhabitants of the country, and either with lands to be occupied and owned by themselves, adequate to their support and maintenance, they practicing ordinary industry in cultivating the same, or else with employment on hire, with provision for their wants, and compensation adequate to their support and maintenance, clothing and medicines, and an education of the children in the simple elements of knowledge, which provision shall continue for the term of five years, minors and infants being permitted to reside with their parents and guardians during their minority, unless apprenticed with the consent of their parents and guardians. All such emigrants and their posterity shall forever remain free, and in no case be reduced to bondage, slavery, or involuntary servitude, except for crime; and they shall specially enjoy liberty of conscience, and the right to acquire, hold, and transmit property, and all other privileges of person common to inhabitants of the country in which they reside. It should be further stipulated that in cases of indigence resulting from injury, sickness, or age, any of such emigrants who shall become paupers shall not thereupon be suffered to perish or to come to want, but shall be supported and cared for as is customary with similar inhabitants of the country in which they shall be residents.

"You are authorized to bring this subject to the attention of Earl Russell, and to inquire whether the British government has a desire to enter into such a negotiation. Should an affirmative answer be given, you may transmit to this department any suggestions that Earl Russell may desire to make in the premises, and you will, upon due consideration of the same, be furnished with a draught of a convention.

"It should be understood that it is not desired by the United States to give to any state a monopoly of the proposed emigration, but to open its benefits on equal terms to all states within the tropics, or having colonies there, which, maintaining free constitutional governments, shall desire those benefits. As it might be expedient to fix upon a definite period for the duration of the proposed treaty, you may suggest ten years as the term, with the privilege after that time of terminating it at the expiration of one year's notice to that effect."

Respectfully submitted.

JAMES MITCHELL,
Agent of Emigration,

Hon. C. B. SMITH,
Secretary of the Interior.